

NUMBER 1.....VOLUME V.

CONTENTS

BOSTON:

1818

☞ An extensive and general assortment of Books in all branches of Literature, for sale at the bookstore of

WELLS AND LILLY,

No. 97, Court-street.

Where subscriptions for the following periodical works are received:

The Edinburgh Review—published quarterly.

The Quarterly Review, do. do.

The New-England Medical Journal, do.

The Journal of Sciences and the Arts. Edited by the Royal Institution of Great Britain. Published quarterly.

A FEW COPIES OF

DAVY'S Elements of Agricultural Chemistry, in a course of Lectures, for the Board of Agriculture. For sale as above.

Likewise, a few copies of a celebrated work on Agriculture, written by Col. JOHN TAYLOR, of Virginia, entitled

ARATOR; being a Series of Agricultural Essays, practical and political: in sixty-one numbers.

Also, a few copies of two celebrated works on dyeing;

Experimental Researches, concerning the Philosophy of permanent Colours; and the best means of producing them, by Dyeing, Calico printing, &c. By Edward Bancroft, M.D.

A Practical Treatise on Dyeing and Calico printing; exhibiting the processes in the French, German, English and American practice of fixing colours on Woollen, Cotton, Silk and Linen. By Thomas Cooper, Esq.

☞ The Springfield oxen, which are mentioned in this number of the Journal, have been painted by Mr. Fisher, who has, by the advice of his friends, issued proposals for publishing, by subscription, a print of the largest of those animals. Those gentlemen who are disposed to patronise the work, are informed that a subscription paper is left at the store of Messrs. Wells and Lilly.

* * Orders for works upon AGRICULTURE GARDENING, BOTANY, whether *English* or *American*, are executed upon the lowest terms by Wells & Lilly, No. 97, Court-street, Boston.

PREFACE.

SOME apology may be thought necessary for occupying so large a part of the present Number with the reports and documents, which relate to the late cattle show at Brighton. When, however, the reasons which induced the Trustees to give so detailed an account shall have been stated, they hope they will be deemed a sufficient justification.

If the useful and ornamental arts are susceptible of encouragement and improvement by publick rewards and exhibitions, or if any advantage can be supposed to be derived from such competition, it can scarcely be questioned, that these beneficial effects will be promoted by giving an extensive circulation to the history of such competitions. There has been scarcely an age or nation, in which the effect of publick exhibitions and rewards has not been tried. Among the ancient nations, they were instituted to encourage skill in horsemanship, in the management of ships, and in athletick exercises, chiefly with a view to fit and improve the combatants for war. In more modern times, they have been employed for the encouragement of the art of painting, or for the purpose of improving the breed of horses. It is only within a few years, we believe, that in Europe or America, this important principle of competition has been applied to the advancement of the most important of all arts, Agriculture.

It must be unnecessary to adduce any arguments to shew, that such exhibitions tend to the encouragement of this art. The continuance and extension of them, from year to year, in almost every part of Europe; the rapid improvement in the animals and productions offered for

exhibition; the ardour with which they are attended, and the deep interest exhibited by the competitors, as well as spectators, preclude the possibility of doubt.

Such exhibitions serve to bring the agricultural art into greater credit, and to advance its professors to the high standing which they deserve. They make known more completely the powers and capabilities of a country; they draw from obscurity the modest, but ingenious and intelligent cultivator; and by making apparent the superiority of his productions, lead to a knowledge of the art and skill by which he was enabled to bring them to perfection. Who, for example, would have supposed, that Massachusetts could furnish an animal like the Oakes cow, capable of producing nearly 500 pounds of butter in a season? And how important to learn, that a very considerable portion of this product was owing to a liberal manner of feeding, which would astonish and alarm most farmers, and yet which was amply repaid by the increased productions?

There are other reasons for such a publication of the result of the late exhibition. It is in this country, as yet, but an experiment. To the munificence of the government of this Commonwealth, are the Trustees, in a considerable part, indebted for their ability to offer such a number of rewards, and to so liberal an amount. A very small portion only of the people can be witnesses of the exhibition. The Trustees, therefore, as agents for the publick, and in some degree entrusted with the application of the publick money, owe to the whole community a full and satisfactory account of the effects of these rewards. The Trustees have, it is true, published a succinct history of the claims and decisions, but there are material defects in this mode of proceeding, and it was adopted only to satisfy the momentary curiosity of the publick. Some persons might retain a degree of incredulity as to some particulars, such as the amount of agricultural productions for which premiums had been granted, or the times in which the several com-

petitors in the ploughing match performed their labour. As an example of this skepticism, it may be remarked, that some of our neighbours were very pleasant upon the speed of our oxen. The Trustees have no disposition to spoil a little pleasantry, but they would wish to prove to the world, that they are not in the practice of publishing extravagant accounts. They have, therefore, resolved to print the separate reports, on every branch of competition, with all the documents and vouchers which accompanied them.

They form a body of evidence, which would be sufficient to establish facts of much greater importance, and points of a much more incredible character. To the report of our ploughing match, at Brighton, they have subjoined an account of the best trial of the same nature, which they could find in the Bath and West of England Society's papers; and to the official return of the weight of our prize oxen, they have added the weight of the largest ox ever slain in England, and whose size is on record.

It may be of use, and produce confidence in the decisions of the Trustees, to state, that in every branch in which any one of the Trustees was a competitor, there were two judges of great skill and irreproachable character chosen out of the board, and not one Trustee was permitted to sit even as a member, much less to give a vote on any Committee appointed to decide on any class of articles, in which such Trustee was a competitor. In addition to which it may be remarked, that there were as many claims of Trustees rejected, as there were of other persons, in proportion to their respective numbers. A transaction, which merits the thanks of the community, has in some instances been either misunderstood or misrepresented. An idea has prevailed in some places, that the Trustees had purchased the cattle to which the first premiums were awarded. The fact is not so. The Springfield oxen had been celebrated for a year past. They were supposed to

be the finest ever produced. There was a strong desire on the part of many persons, that Massachusetts might have the credit she deserves as a grazing country. Col. Chapin was not willing to drive his cattle to Brighton, at his own risk.

Some generous publick-spirited gentlemen, out of the board, and a few within it, subscribed a sum to purchase the cattle, in order that they might be exhibited at Brighton, and at a certain, inevitable, expected loss. They paid 1050 dollars for the oxen. Col. Chapin drove them down, and, as was agreed, took the premium himself in part payment for them. They were not exhibited, as they might have been, for profit as a show. There has been, as was expected, a loss, but the remuneration consists in having shewn to thousands of spectators, the finest animals *probably at that moment* in the world, the products of the rich pastures of Massachusetts.

To conclude, this account ought to be continued annually in the present form, as it serves as a foundation for a complete history of our agriculture. How valuable would be such a document respecting the agriculture of Rome, under the republick, and the emperours, and of Great Britain, even if it were but one in each century. We rejoice to see similar societies springing up in every part of our country. Publications emanating from them will make us much better acquainted with the progress of cultivation, and the comparative wealth and advancement of the different sections of the United States, than we can in any other way become.